

UNCLASSIFIED Department of State

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OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

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DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA: RWZIMMERMAN: LM
APPROVED BY ARA: FJMCNEIL
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TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES NIACT IMMEDIATE

STATE 167927

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM MCNEIL

E. O. 11652:

TAGS: SHUM, OAS, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE DISCUSSIONS WITH IAHRC

REF: CASTRO-MCNEIL TELECON JUNE 30

1. WE UNDERSTAND THERE WERE TWO MEETINGS BETWEEN MONTES AND THE IAHRC. AT THE FIRST, FORMAL MEETING MONTES INVITED THE COMMISSION TO LOOK INTO JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ASPECTS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA. THIS INVITATION WAS QUITE VAGUE. IN RESPONSE, THE COMMISSION NOTED THAT IT HAS A SET OF INTERNAL RULES IT FOLLOWS WHICH COVER THE VARIOUS FACETS OF SITUATION THEY ALWAYS LOOK INTO SUCH AS VISITS TO DETENTION CENTERS. ARGENTINES MADE NO RESPONSE.

2. AT A SUBSEQUENT INFORMAL MEETING THE IAHRC SPECIFICALLY ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE ABLE TO VISIT DETENTION CENTERS. THE ARGENTINE RESPONSE WAS NEGATIVE. (OUR SOURCE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY DISTINCTION BETWEEN CIVIL AND MILITARY DETENTION CENTERS.) THE COMMISSION THEN SENT THE ARGENTINES A NOTE ASKING ARGENTINA TO CLARIFY THE TERMS OF THEIR INVITATION IN LIGHT OF THE COMMISSION'S NORMAL PROCEDURES PER THE LIST OF QUESTIONS. THERE HAS BEEN NO REPLY AS OF LAST NIGHT.

3. PRESUMABLY THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN SOME SIDE CONVERSATIONS OF WHICH WE ARE NOT PRESENTLY AWARE AS BOTH THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY AND THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THEIR DELEGATION STATE THAT DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING, ALTHOUGH THIS MAY REFER ONLY TO THE FACT THEY ARE STILL STUDYING A REPLY TO THE IAHRC NOTE.

4. THE FACT WE HAVE THE INFORMATION IN PARAS 1 AND 2 SHOULD NOT BE REVEALED TO THE ARGENTINES, UNLESS SIMILAR INFO RECEIVED FROM ARGENTINE SOURCES AS WELL.

5. FOR THE RECORD, AS WE AGREED ON THE PHONE, YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR, IF NECESSARY, THAT THE QUESTION OF THE CONDITIONS OF THE VISIT IS A MATTER FOR THE ARGENTINES AND THE IAHRC TO RESOLVE AMONG THEMSELVES. WE OBVIOUSLY HOPE THEY CAN REACH AGREEMENT, BUT IT WOULD BE IMPROPER FOR US TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. VANCE

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s):
Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date Declassify on Reason

Do we agree? ()
RC

Lot 81D208
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